



To: Mayor and City Council

Agenda Item #: XII.A.

From: Scott H. Neal, City Manager

Action ☒

Discussion ☐

Date: August 5, 2015

Information ☐

Subject: Creation of Partners In Energy (PIE) Community Planning Team

Action Requested:

Approve the proposed establishment of the Partners In Energy Community Planning Team

Information / Background:

The City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Xcel Energy for the Partners In Energy (PIE) program on June 17, 2015. One of the first actions necessary to implement the PIE program is to appoint a Community Planning Team (CPT). The purpose of the CPT is to craft, for the City Council's ultimate review and approval, an Energy Action Plan (EAP) for the City.

An EAP can have many goals and objectives, depending on the wants and needs of the community. As I have discussed this program with the Members of Council, City staff and representatives of the Energy & Environment Commission, I think we will want an EAP that not only embeds an energy conservation ethos in city government, but in the community as well.

Xcel provides staff support for the CPT. Xcel recommends the CPT be populated with representatives from a wide array of disciplines and perspectives in the community. At the July 21 Council meeting, I shared my thoughts with the Council about how I recommend you should populate a twelve member Edina CPT.

That recommendation is as follows:

Two members of the EEC appointed by the EEC

Five Edina citizens appointed by the Council - with each Council Member nominating his or her recommended appointee

Two City staff members appointed by the City Manager

Two members appointed by the Edina Area Chamber of Commerce

One member appointed by the Board of the 50th & France Association

My July 21 recommendation also included a counsel to have the CPT co-chaired by the two members from the EEC.

There is no magic or strict rationale for the size of this group. As with any ad hoc group, committee or task force, however, bigger is not always better. According to social scientists Marcia W. Blenko, Michael C. Mankins, and Paul Rogers, authors of *Decide & Deliver: 5 Steps to Breakthrough Performance in Your Organization* (Harvard Business Press), optimal group size for a group of people that is charged with making decisions or recommendations is 7. Each additional member added to the group beyond 7 reduces decision effectiveness by 10%, according to Blenko, Mankins and Rogers. Using the authors' formula for optimal group size, the decision effectiveness of a group of 17 or more will be nil, so anything less than 17 members should produce the desired outcome.

I am open, of course, to Council input on the size and composition of the CPT. I have received input that the CPT may benefit from having a Member of Council as a member. I've had other input that it ought to include more City staff on it. I will introduce this item during my report at the Aug 5 Council meeting. I would advise, if possible, that we discuss the possibilities and make a decision at the Aug 5 Council meeting. If the Council can approve the composition of the CPT, Council and staff can go forward with soliciting potential members for appointment at either the August 18 or September 1 Council meetings.